

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Jersey City to Celebrate the 49th Annual Puerto Rican Heritage Festival and Parade as part of the City's 'Tapestry of Nations' Ethnic Festival Series

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Division of Cultural Affairs proudly announce that the annual **Puerto Rican Heritage Festival**, a two day event being held as part of the City's '*Tapestry of Nations' Ethnic Festival*' series, will take place from **12 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** on **Saturday and Sunday, August 22, 2009 and August 23, 2009** at **J. Owen Grundy Pier** at Exchange Place.

The **Puerto Rican Parade** kicks off on **Sunday, August 23rd** at **1 p.m.** from **Lincoln Park** at Kennedy Boulevard and Belmont Avenue. It winds its way along Kennedy Boulevard to Montgomery Street and then along Montgomery Street to the reviewing stand at City Hall.

“The vibrancy and influence of the Puerto Rican community is an integral part of the fabric that makes up Jersey City’s Tapestry of Nations,” said **Mayor Healy**. “A large part of Jersey City’s economy and culture is in based upon the core contributions of the Puerto Rican people. Their family values, faith, and hard work place the Puerto Rican community firmly within the narrative of all Jersey City immigration stories.”

Considered the largest and most colorful ethnic parade in Jersey City, thousands are expected to march with thousands more as spectators. Bands in colorful costumes, stilt walkers, dancers, floats and native bands will be in abundance. There will be continuous entertainment by local, Island and international artists. The festival will feature artists such as: Hector Tricoche, Raulin Rosendo, Los Hermanos Moreno, Ray Rodriguez, Wayne Gorbea, Grupp Anejo, Groupo Conga, and much more!

(more)

Every year, Jersey City Puerto Rican Heritage Festival and Parade Committee has always sought to honor worthwhile and deserving individuals who are fine upstanding citizens. This year, the **Puerto Rican Heritage Festival & Parade, Inc.** will be honoring the following people: Nidia Lopez, Grand Marshall; Juan Manuel Lopez, International Godfather; Miriam Colon, International Godmother; Daniel Rivera, Local Godfather; Minerva Torres, Local Godmother; Fermin Garcia, Man of the Year; Gladys Rodriguez, Woman of the Year; Frank Molina, Jr., Police Officer of the Year; Jenaro Rivas, Educator of the Year; Robert Lamboy, Sheriff Officer of the Year; Lt. Omar Ortiz, Correction Officer of the Year; Nelson Martinez, Fireman of the Year; Michael Murcia, and Britney Benites, Students of the Year; Michael Sottolano, Honorary Puerto Rican Man of the Year; Maryanne Kelleher, Honorary Puerto Rican Woman of the Year; George Mercado, Businessman of the Year; Nancy Ramos, Nurse of the Year; Jose Ginarte, Lawyer of the Year; Hon. Mayor Jerramiah Healy, Green Leadership Award; Norman Guerra, Green Leadership Award; and PSE&G, Green Leadership Award Company.

“This event provides the opportunity for the Puerto Ricans of Jersey City celebrate their pride and heritage with the community,” said **Armando Roman**, President of the Jersey City Puerto Rican Heritage Festival and Parade Committee. “The committee works tirelessly year-round dedicating their time to community service, providing academic and athletic scholarships to Jersey City students, and through community events, they enable schools, businesses, community organizations, and government to join together and celebrate our rich ethnic traditions and cultural ancestry.”

A diverse array of food, refreshments, arts and crafts, handmade crafts and other novelty items will be available for sale.

For more information about the Puerto Rican Parade and Festival, call the Division of Cultural Affairs at (201) 547-6921.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///